

# WARDLAW + HARTRIDGE

Pioneering. Thinkers.

August 11, 2023

Dear Wardlaw+Hartridge Families,

Our core values – Integrity, Opportunity, Support, Diversity, Community, and Sustainability – guide all we do and provide the bedrock for decision making in all areas of school life. As we prepare students to lead and succeed in a world of global interconnection, we recognize that the leaders of tomorrow must demonstrate a deep understanding of a complex world. Their experiences as part of one of the most diverse independent school communities in the region help to build this nuanced understanding through daily interactions with different perspectives, backgrounds, and cultures.

In the fall of 2021, we formed a schoolwide Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging (DEIB) Committee comprised of students, faculty and staff, parents, alumni/ae, and Board representatives to make recommendations for ways to ensure a deep and abiding sense of belonging is felt by all members of our community. That committee crafted mission and vision statements to guide us, both of which were approved by the Board of Trustees in 2022.

In addition to the DEIB Committee, a faculty and staff DEIB Facilitation Team was formed to develop and lead training sessions for employees on a wide range of important topics, such as: comprehensive consent, supporting students in crisis, equity case studies and practical applications in and beyond the classroom, identifying and avoiding implicit bias and microaggressions.

I am very pleased to announce that Maxime Sinal, English Department Chair, will be leading our campus-wide efforts as our DEIB Coordinator. In collaboration with colleagues and others, Mr. Sinal will provide an overarching structure to divisional DEIB efforts, helping the school to develop and provide programming for all stakeholders in the areas of diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging. Please see attached a letter of introduction from Mr. Sinal.

The start to the 2023-2024 school year is just a few weeks away! In short order, families will be receiving important information about the start of school and related activities.

Onward!

Dr. Corinna Crafton  
Head of School



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